

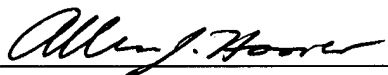
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Applicant submits that no conceivable modification of the construction of Dom Holdings (FR 1,559,036 A) in view of Smith (GB 2,315,090 A) would result in a construction having co-operative formations that not only would prevent slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part, in a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, but also would permit slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part in an opposite direction, along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part. Applicant submits, therefore, that claim 13 and its dependent claims should be now patentable.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE

You are requested to insert the following paragraph, which was inserted as the next-to-last paragraph on page 5 of the applicant's specification, so as to read as follows:

The down pipe 11 has a longitudinal axis, which, as illustrated, is vertical. The teeth 22 and the teeth 44 co-operate to enable the attachment of the first part 12 to the second part 14 to be selectively adjustable and, once the second part 14 has been slidably attached to the first part 12, to limit slidable [the] movement of the second part 14 relative to the first part 12, in a given direction, i.e., in a downward direction, but to permit slidable movement of the second part 14 relative to the first part 12 in an opposite direction, i.e., in an upward direction.

You are requested further to amend claim 13, upon which claims 16, 17, 18, and 19 continue to depend, as follows:

13. (Three Times Amended) A connecting device suitable for attaching a pipe, which has a longitudinal axis, to a surface, the connecting device comprising a first part fixable to the surface and a second part slidably attachable to the first part so as to be slidable along the pipe, along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, the first and second parts having co-operating formations enabling the attachment of the first part to the second part to be selectively adjustable, whereby spacing of the pipe from the surface is adjustable, the first and second parts having co-operative formations limiting the movement of the second part relative to the first part, in a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, but permitting the movement of the second part relative to the first part in an opposite direction, along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.

ABSTRACT

E3 A connecting device for securing a down pipe to a wall comprises a first part fixable to the surface and a second part attachable to the first part and forming an at least partial enclosure for the pipe, the attachment of the second part to the first part being selectively adjustable, whereby spacing of the pipe from the wall is adjustable. Co-operative formations prevent slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part, in a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, but permit slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part in an opposite direction, along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.